

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

February 25, 2019

By email: info@ohiohistory.org

Ohio History Center
800 E. 17th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Re: Ohio Open Records Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to the Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43, *et seq.*

First, CfA seeks any and all communications to, from, or between any employee of the Office of the Governor and any of the following individuals or organizations:

- 1) Michael Gonidakis
- 2) Devin Scribner
- 3) Katie Franklin
- 4) Ohio Right to Life
- 5) Janet Porter
- 6) Faith2Action
- 7) Paula Westwood
- 8) Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati
- 9) Ed Sitter
- 10) Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio, Inc
- 11) Molly Smith
- 12) Cleveland Right to Life
- 13) Paul Coudron
- 14) Dayton Right to Life

This request is for records from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018.

By way of background, Gov. Kasich has signed several bills into law restricting access to abortion. For instance, in July 2015, Gov. Kasich signed a budget bill making it harder for abortion clinics to continue to operate.¹ In February 2016, Gov. Kasich signed House Bill 294 which cut

¹ Robert Higgs, New Rules Continue to Restrict Abortion Rules, *Plain Dealer*, July 6, 2015.

state funding for Planned Parenthood.² In December 2016, Gov. Kasich signed a bill that prohibits abortions after 20 weeks of fertilization.³ Additionally, the Ohio Legislature considered several bills that would enact additional restrictions on abortions.⁴ The individuals and organizations listed above have supported the Legislature's and Gov. Kasich's actions to limit access to abortion.

Where possible, please produce records electronically. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7). CfA seeks records of any kind, including electronic records, calendars, schedules, meeting and conference call invitations, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs. This request includes any letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. This request also includes any attachments to these records.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1), please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(3). In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1). If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(3).

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(6).

Please promptly produce the requested records, or pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1), please provide the requested records within a reasonable period of time, or furnish a written acknowledgment of receipt of our request and the approximate date when the request will be granted or denied, as well as when we can reasonably expect to receive the responsive documents. If you foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Ohio History Center to process it.

² Robert Higgs, *Ohio Gov. John Kasich Signs Bill to Cut Funding to Planned Parenthood in Ohio*, *Cleveland.com*, February 22, 2016, available at http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2016/02/ohio_gov_john_kasich_signs_bil_1.html.

³ Robert Higgs, *Gov. John Kasich Vetoes Anti-Abortion Heartbeat Bill, Signs 20-Week Abortion Ban*, *Cleveland.com*, December 14, 2016, available at http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2016/12/gov_john_kasich_vetos_anti-abo.html.

⁴ Nicole Knight, *Ohio Republicans Aim to Make Abortion Care Aggravated Murder*, *Rewire*, September 11, 2017, available at <https://rewire.news/article/2017/09/11/ohio-republicans-aim-make-abortion-care-aggravated-murder/>.

If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens
Executive Director